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## Launch of video series celebrating cancer survivorship in Muslim communities

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), in partnership with the Sisters' Cancer Support Group and Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra, recently launched a series of four videos celebrating cancer survivorship aimed at multicultural Muslim communities.

Part of Project SAHA, which stands for Survivorship, Access, Healthy Living and Awareness, the short videos feature four women, each reflecting on their personal journey of diagnosis, treatment and living with cancer.

Funding for Project SAHA, which includes the videos, development of a new website for the Sisters' Cancer Support Group and community engagement and education sessions for health services was received from Cancer Institute NSW, as part of their work to improve the experiences of people with cancer in multicultural communities.

Cancer Institute NSW is a pillar organisation of NSW Health and provides the strategic direction for cancer control in NSW. The Project SAHA grant of \$79,600 will help promote holistic health and wellbeing within the multicultural Muslim community of the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

ISLHD Multicultural Health Service Manager, Leissa Pitts said the District identified the benefit of providing cancer information to the multicultural Muslim community using a new approach.

"We know that culturally and linguistically diverse communities often have poorer health outcomes than mainstream populations which can mean they don't live as long, get sick more often, or have health conditions that tend to be more severe upon diagnosis," she said.

"The powerful *Celebrating Cancer Survivorship* videos aim to reduce the stigma and social misunderstanding of cancer treatment within the multicultural Muslim community, while promoting positive stories of cancer survivorship and encouraging cancer screening and appropriate lifestyle changes," Mrs Pitts said.

The videos will be available in five languages: Arabic, Turkish, Urdu, Farsi and English.

The SAHA video series are available to view on ISLHD's [YouTube Channel](#) .

Sisters' Cancer Support Group is a community based, not-for-profit, registered organisation that provides support for women from multicultural backgrounds who are affected by cancer. It was the first multicultural specific cancer support group registered with Cancer Council NSW and Breast Cancer Network Australia.

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**Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District**

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